

MEXICO MISSOURI MESSAGE.

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Fred Gibson Deserts In Serious Trouble

Left The Navy, Now a Federal Prisoner—Thinks He May Be Shot.

COULDN'T ENDURE JAR
OF THE BIG GUNS.

He's A Fine Fellow—Friends Working For His Release—Sam Bowne Doing His Bit.

The neighbors and friends of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Chilcote, northwest of Centralia, are doing all possible toward having leniency extended by the Army Board to Freddie Gibson, the orphan boy, 18 years old, who lived with Mr. and Mrs. Chilcote and who deserted the Navy in August and was arrested at the farm recently and taken to the Great Lakes Training Station. Petitions are being circulated over that section to show what the people who know the boy and money will be made up to hire legal help.

Sam J. Bowne, Jr., who accompanied the boy to the Illinois Station, asked the officer in charge what he could do in extending help and help keep in touch with him, so the folks here would know what the New York Court Martial Board did with Gibson. Mr. Bowne was informed that only the father and mother would receive answers to letters sent in his behalf. Mr. Bowne told the officer that the boy had no relatives that he knew of and asked if a guardian would be enabled to carry on the work. He was told that a guardian would have all the advantages a parent would have, and so when he arrived home Mr. Bowne immediately took up the matter with the Audrain County Court and he was appointed to the guardianship of Gibson.

Mr. Bowne tells The Message that while in Chicago he got in touch with a wealthy woman who is spending her time and money helping the boys in the army and navy, and she is trying to have the case of young Gibson come up in Chicago instead of New York.

Freddie Gibson came to Centralia eight years ago with several orphan boys and girls and found a home with Mr. and Mrs. Chilcote. These good people, as The Centralia Guard expresses it, kept him and raised him but never legally adopted him. He proved to be a most lovable and obedient child and had good breeding and religious training, which he always maintained, together with strict honesty in all matters.

Gibson became interested in the navy from advertisements, which fired up his zeal, and he volunteered against the advice of his friends. He told S. J. Bowne that the situation was all so different, and he felt he could not live under the discipline when the great cannon on the Arizona—his ship—were fired the roar and the concussion would almost kill him. He was knocked down by the shocks more than once. He said he finally came to the conclusion that he wanted to go home. He felt that if he could go back to the farm and stay two weeks with "pap and mamma" they could come and get him and shoot him, as he expects to be shot.

He deserted from the Arizona at New York harbor and came home. He had just two weeks with his foster parents when he was arrested. He was told of the letter the Federal authorities had written to Mr. Chilcote, and he told them to write and tell the officers to come and get him, as he did not want to get his only friends in trouble.

On the trip to Chicago the young man was left on his honor while his guard stole a few hours of sleep in another coach. Gibson made no effort to get away although he had dozens of chances. He was ready to accompany Bowne from the Chicago stop to the station up the lake.

Mr. Bowne says the government authorities were amazed when he told how the boy had come with him willingly, how he had not put the irons on him nor restrained him in any way except to tell him that he expected him to go with him and treat him as he would want to be treated if their positions were reversed. Mr. (Concluded on page 8.)

IS MAKING GOOD IN NEW YORK.

Former Audrain Boy Has Taught There 17 Years—Writes a Book—Visits Old Home In This County.

"A Sister", whom we opine to be Mrs. Ed Atchison, writes for publication of a native Audrain County boy who is making good in New York City:

W. W. Clendenin, head teacher of Physiography in Wadleigh High School, New York City, visited his sisters, Mrs. J. W. Hanger and Mrs. Ed Atchison, the last of August and first of September. Mr. Clendenin was born and grew to manhood on the Clendenin farm, now owned by J. W. Hanger, in the Wesley Chapel neighborhood. It had been ten years since he had visited his old home. His short stay of a week was too brief for side trips, so the relatives gathered at Mrs. Atchison's and Mrs. Hanger's. They were Mrs. T. J. Gibson, her husband and son, Russell, of Mexico; C. C. Clendenin, wife and daughter, Carroll, of Hannibal; Mrs. C. E. Caspar, of Kansas City; his nieces, Mrs. J. E. Fairbairn and Mrs. G. D. Edwards, of Columbia with their children, Leta Carl and Corwin; and his nephew, Lieutenant Charles R. Hanger, of the National Army, to Fort Riley, Kansas. It was a pleasant week of reunion and reminiscence, tinged, of course, as all reunions are, with sadness because of loved ones who were formerly with us and were there no more. Two especially enjoyable occasions were those "when we et out in the yard" at the old home place on Friday evening, August 31, and played "Last fellow out", by the light of the moon, and on Sunday, Sept. 2, when we were joined by two life long friends, Mrs. John Quaintance and Miss Bess Corner, of Laddonia, with their nephew, Howard Barnes.

Mr. Clendenin has been teaching in Wadleigh High School seventeen years, and his old friends will be glad to know that in spite of the exacting duties of such a position he has found time to help write a physiography that is now used in the New York High Schools; has taken his doctorate in law at the New York University; has helped develop Camp Quinbeck, one of the leading summer camp for girls in New England, and is now developing Passumpsic, a camp for small boys. He is also active member of the Missouri Society of New York, thus demonstrating loyalty to his native state. His only son, Thomas Pipes Clendenin, was not subject to draft, lacking five days of being twenty-one on June 5, but waiving exemption he entered the training camp at Madison Barracks, N. Y., and secured a commission of second lieutenant of artillery in the National Army, leaving a good position as assistant in mathematics in City College, New York City, to do so. Mr. Clendenin's only daughter, Ruth, will enter Barnard College this fall.

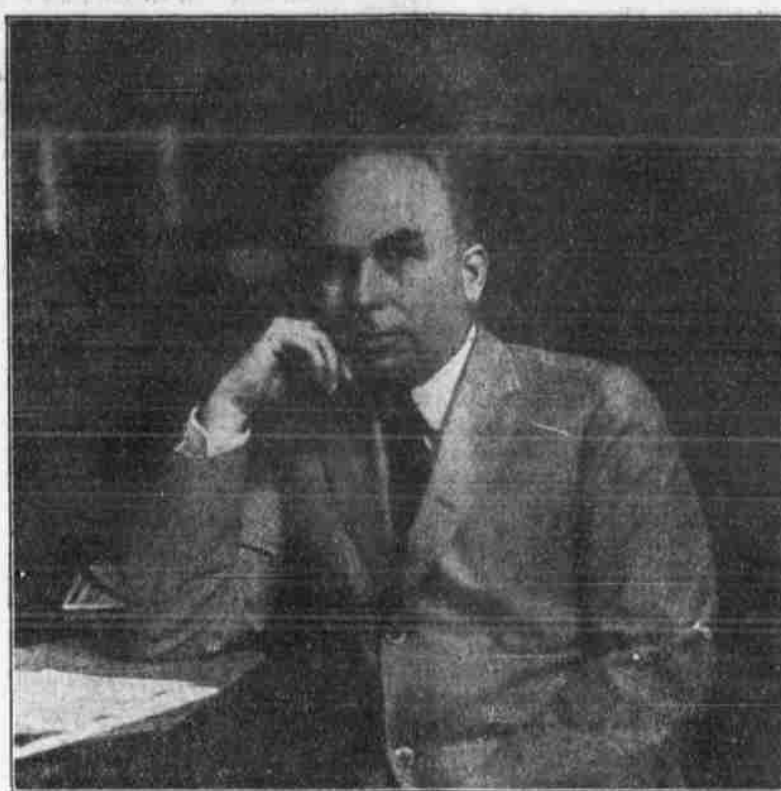
MISS REED ACQUITTED.

Miss Dorothy Reedy, of Paris, a school teacher, charged with assault, was discharged when her case came up before Benjamin Mitchell, Justice of the Peace, of Rocky Fork Township. The case was tried in a blacksmith shop at Hallsville and former prosecuting attorney, E. C. Anderson, who in his earlier days pounded the anvil, was able to give his client, Miss Reedy, the beat of his service, which resulted in her acquittal. Miss Reedy was charged with assaulting Avon LaForce, of Hallsville, the 12-year-old son of Oscar LaForce. She contended that the only way to control him was to "wield the birch".

Prof. and Mrs. Bert C. Riley of the University of Arkansas are in Columbia in research work for his home school—at the M. S. U. Mrs. Riley, formerly Miss Ruth Lemon of Mexico, will visit here before their return home. Prof. Riley's work calls him to the Universities of Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, returning to Arkansas in October.

DYNAMO BREAKS DOWN.

Thirty students in McMillan High School come and go each day over the electric railway from out toward Molino and Santa Fe. The dynamo which furnishes power for the car broke down last week, and the school folks have experienced a great inconvenience.



GOV. FRED D. GARDNER, WHO SPOKE IN MEXICO TUESDAY.

Hardin College And Military Academy

THE NEW BUILDING AT THE
ACADEMY NEARING COMPLETION—HARDIN STARTS WITH
130 BOARDING PUPILS.

Classes convened at Hardin Thursday, Sept. 13, the enrollment being about the same as last year. There are about 140 boarding pupils and 50 resident students. 75 per cent of the boarding pupils are from our own state of Missouri. Other states represented are Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Texas, Illinois, Arkansas, Ohio, Montana.

Robert Robinson of the Science Department has answered the call to the Nation's colors. His place is to be filled in the teaching faculty by Miss Maude Reed. Otherwise the faculty remains as last year.

Students for Missouri Military Academy responded to the first reveille Thursday morning. The boys have been coming in on every train. There are cadets here from Nebraska, California, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, Kansas, Arkansas, Texas, Iowa and from here and there all over Missouri. The enrollment is expected to near the 200 mark.

At the M. M. A. the enrollment is about 180 cadets. More than the full capacity of the Institution.

Work on the new building is being pushed forward and it will be ready for occupancy next month. The entire school buildings have been renovated, repainted and refloored.

Former pupils returning are delighted and surprised at the many changes and improvements.

There are new members in the faculty, several of them. Capt. C. H. Werner, graduate of Colgate University, has charge of the History Department. Capt. P. A. Rohlfuss, of Susquehanna University, is in charge of the Science Department; he is also director of athletics. Base ball, foot ball and basket ball will have his direct attention. Capt. H. G. Pfander, graduate of Chicago Lake Forest University, has charge of the English Department. Capt. Henry has the Commercial Department and Capt. Badgerly will teach Latin, Spanish and French.

RISON OF KIRKSVILLE HEAD OF STATE ELKS.

The State Annual Convention of the Missouri Association of Elks held in Jefferson City elected A. D. Rison of Kirksville as president for the coming year. E. E. Wood of Webb City was made vice president; Otto C. Beltz, of Sedalia, second Vice president; W. S. Bowers of Moberly, third vice president; W. E. Brown, Carrollton, secretary; A. E. Major of Clinton, treasurer; E. T. Thomas, Columbia, doorkeeper; C. C. Himers of Maryville, chaplain; Hamp Rothwell of St. Louis, trustee.

About 100 Elks were in attendance and they were royally entertained. From Mexico Lodge those who attended were: Dr. Dennis T. Moore, Fred Pilcher, Sam Byrns, Turner Williams. Audrey Gibson married a Mexico girl, Anna Belle McGee; he has a county office in Adair Co.

HERE'S WHERE

CLARK IS RIGHT.

Let's Take Care Of Our Boys And Their Families While They Risk Their Lives In The War.

Applause swept over the House floor and thru the galleries in Congress when Speaker Clark, in a brief speech, defended the soldiers' insurance bill as the best measure before Congress since the declaration of war.

"One of the objections to this bill," he said, "is that the government is liable to find itself in the hole as a result of it. I don't know whether it will put the government in the hole or not, and I am not very



much excited about that. I favor making the soldiers that go to Europe as comfortable as possible, both physically and mentally. I don't want them to have to worry about their families back home. If they are willing to risk their lives we ought to take care of them.

"I am in favor of insurance," he said. "I think in time every body in the country will have insurance of some kind. I never have been able to save any money, and I have carried insurance because I wanted to keep my wife and children out of the poor house. And I want to fix it so the wives and children of these soldiers won't have to go to the poorhouse."

FRED VAN HORNE ACCIDENTALLY KILLED

Discharges Gun While Climbing Over A Fence, Causing Death.

Fred H. Van Horne, a youth of 23 years, living near Auxvasse, was accidentally killed last Thursday at about noon, by the discharge of a target rifle. He had been in Auxvasse that morning and left about 11 a. m. for his home a mile and a half away, and getting his target rifle started out hunting. While climbing a fence the gun was discharged, the ball striking him in the temple and causing his death.

Fred was a son of L. P. Van Horne. He has a sister, Miss Grace, who is a teacher in the Nevada schools.

A SERIOUS TIME.

J. H. Dowdy is reported as suffering greatly from a broken leg and his wife is at the point of death at their home near Tulp. Mr. Dowdy's injury was received in a peculiar manner. Wishing to make a cow move out of the way in the barn he gave her a tap with a stick. The blow seemed to strike a nerve which momentarily paralyzed the animal, for she dropped in her tracks, catching Mr. Dowdy's leg and crushing the bone.

BETHEL PRESBYTERIANS.

The usual services will be held at Bethel next Sunday, morning and evening.

Miss Mary Barks, of Mexico, will serve as organist for the Christian Church in Columbia this winter.

Ed Rodhouse, rural mail carrier on route 6, is taking his vacation. John M. Cowherd is substituting for him.

Attorney A. C. Whitson was in St. Louis on business last week.

MEXICO SAVINGS BANK

50th Year in Business
Capital Stock \$100,000

R. M. WHITE, President
J. R. JESSE, Cashier

Honors For The Soldier Boys

Parades And Music And Speechmaking—Gov. Gardner Makes Main Address.

BIG HOME DUTIES
ARE EMPHASIZED.

Parents Have Mission—Soldier Boys Will Be Recognized As The Nation's Benefactors.

Mexico and Audrain county held a monster patriotic demonstration Tuesday afternoon for the drafted boys who leave the county to join the army. The schools paraded and McMillan and the M. M. A. Bands made the music. Every scheme was studied to show the young men all possible honor.

The band selections were all patriotic. They were as follows:

March, General Funston.
Serenade, Vision of Yesterday.
March, Demonstration.
Selection, Breezes From the South.
March, Rehabilitation.
Overture, Manitau.
March, The Commandant.
Selection, Operatic Mingles.
March, Our Director.
Overture, Victory.
The Star Spangled Banner.

Gov. Gardner was present and made a rousing speech. Some of his observations were covered in the following:

Gov. Gardner's Speech.

"You, young men, are to be a part of the legions of freedom. You are summoned to the colors under the terms of the law, and no more just or equitable law has ever been enacted by this Republic. The law is based upon the four cardinal principles upon which our Government must stand:

Equality of Right.
Reciprocity of Duty.
Community of Interests.
Evenness of Opportunity.

Your names will ever be enrolled with those of the nation's benefactors. You go forth honored and loved by your people at home, who will eagerly await the record you are to make. We doubt not that it will equal the glory of Missouri's sons on other battlefields.

The Kaiser's Rule of Iron.

It may not be amiss to ask you to again consider our reasons for entering this war.

Is it not a fact that this Prussian military system has grown to its present power solely by the business of war? Is the German Empire a voluntary confederation, or is a nation held together by fear and tyranny?

To the mothers and fathers, wives and sweethearts, brothers and sisters of the boys who go, what can we say to cheer their hearts? This should be a proud day for them. You sturdy men and women, whose ancestors landed at Jamestown, Manhattan, and Plymouth Rock, your willingness to see the boys go is but an expression of that loyalty and patriotism which has ever been a dominant trait in the American citizen.

Great Tasks at Home.

As for those who remain at home. What are we to do? Is this not to be a war of equal suffering and sacrifice? We must not remain idle while the fathers and mothers offer freely the rich blood of their young sons. This crisis calls for a sacrifice and a service from every citizen of this broad land if we are to win. The man who expects to live a life of ease and pleasure during this war and grow rich is not a slacker. He is a Benedict Arnold.

I call upon the people of this good State to continue the work we have begun. Let us today rededicate our lives, our fortunes and our all to the Stars and Stripes and our beloved country. Let us say to the boys as they go forward that they shall not be forgotten—that our love and our prayers go with them.

Let us hope and pray that as the spirit of '76 gave us independence and liberty, and as the spirit of '63 gave us unity, that the spirit of 1917 may give all the world the blessings of freedom.

Other speakers who made short addresses were Hon. E. A. Shannon. (Concluded on page 8.)